

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 2010

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Seth Adams, Steve Cardon, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Dominique Lorang-Leins, Christine Davidson-McCord and Tolu Odunlami

Absent: Faith Klareich

Guests: John Britton, Rockville City Council Liaison

Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Erica Shingara, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Julie Carr, Resident; Donna Vincent Roa, Resident; and Moriah Ferullo, Resident

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 8, 2009 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclamation.

City Council Liaison Expectations

Councilmember John Britton has been appointed to serve as the liaison between the Council and the Commission. Mr. Britton explained that he was not a member of the Commission but planned to attend as many meetings as possible. He also requested that all correspondence between the Commission and City staff be routed to him, including agendas and meeting minutes. He noted that he would be making brief monthly presentations to the Council on the activities of the Commission.

Commission Vacancies

The Commission interviewed several prospective candidates to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Faith Klareich. These will be discussed further in Executive Session.

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

- Mark introduced Erica Shingara, newly hired environmental specialist and liaison to the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee
- Stormwater Chapter 19 Amendments will be introduced at the Mayor and Council Meeting on January 25. All Commissioners are invited to attend.
- Green Building Chapter 5 Amendments will be reintroduced at the Mayor and Council Meeting on January 25. All Commissioners are invited to attend
- The City will propose a deer management task force to look at population and control issues at the Mayor and Council Meeting on January 25. All Commissioners are invited to attend. Christine Davidson McCord has volunteered to serve on the Committee if endorsed.

Science Day Preparations

The Commission intends to again participate in Science Day activities to be held at Montgomery College from **12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on April 25, 2010**. They expect to require 2 tables to set out all of the display materials they have including electric meters and rain barrels. They would like to give away seeds if possible. The Commission established a rotating order for member participation: 11:00-1:45 (David and Steve); 1:30-3:45 (Seth and Beri); and 3:30-5:30 (Kris and Dominique). Tolu indicated he would attend from 2:00 to 4:00.

Hometown Holidays

Hometown Holidays is scheduled for May 29-30. The Commission intends to participate but will only require one display table. Further, the Commission anticipates only attending the Sunday (30th) session. Recycling topics will be the predominant theme.

Committee Reports:

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee – Met on 12/15. Discussed the proposed green building ordinance with City staff one last time prior to reintroduction. Those Commissioner in attendance supported moving forward to public comment.

Watershed Protection Committee – Met on 12/22/09. Discussed the Chapter 19 proposal with Lise Soukup of City staff. The group also revised the description of their mission and activities currently posted on the City's website. The Committee discussed the upcoming stream monitoring volunteer training opportunities, and the need to schedule the cleanup of the stream segment (Maryvale Creek) adopted by the Commission.

Outreach and Education Committee – The Committee met on 12/14/09. The Bates Creative Group has agreed to design display materials free of charge for the City. Committee representatives will then meet with the City Communications Team to seek approval of the display materials to be produced by the City graphics shop. The Committee also discussed how to approach promotion of recycling as well as Science Day and Hometown Holidays.

Executive Session

The Commission went into executive session to discuss the two candidates who have applied to serve on the Commission. Donna Vincent Roa was selected to fill that vacancy. Her name will be forwarded through the City Clerk to the Mayor for further consideration by the Mayor and Council.

New Business

The Commissioners briefly discussed the need to encourage the use of brownfields before greenfields for new construction and the need to promote more use of porous pavement.

Dominique announced her intention to resign (and subsequent to the meeting has in fact resigned from the Commission). The Commission will consider a replacement at its next meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm by unanimous acclimation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 9, 2010** at **7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.

Post-Meeting Action Items:

- Mark will check with the City Clerk to see if there are more Commission or Committee applicants on file.
- The Outreach Committee will get a specific request into Mark Charles to purchase display materials with City funds.